

great recognition, I ask this honorable body to join me in honoring Pioneer Middle School, in grateful appreciation for its remarkable improvement and success as a top school in western New York.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL TRACEY NICHOLSON ON ASSUMING HER NEW POSITION AS THE SECRETARY OF THE COMBINED JOINT STAFF FOR THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE IRAQ

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Tracey Nicholson, an American patriot and proud soldier in the United States Army, as she leaves her command at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York, and assumes her new position as the Secretary of the Combined Joint Staff for the Multinational Force Iraq under General Petraeus.

Colonel Nicholson has distinguished herself as both the first African American female to command an installation within the continental United States, and as the first female commander of Fort Hamilton, the 183-year-old historic installation located in southern Brooklyn. Her leadership and driving personality were crucial in the continued improvement of both military and community programs throughout the city.

During the most recent BRAC I had the opportunity to work closely with Colonel Nicholson in preserving Fort Hamilton when it was under consideration for closure and was impressed with her intelligence and commitment to the only active duty military installation in New York City. These traits will serve her well in her next duty assignment.

Madam Speaker, during her tenure Colonel Nicholson has implemented numerous programs that have led to upgrades in both base infrastructure and facilities; improved housing programs and services for those serving at Fort Hamilton; as well as expanding support for veterans and retirees throughout the entire New York City area. The energy she brought to her work each and every day will certainly be missed.

As much as it pains me to bid Colonel Nicholson farewell as she answers the continued call to service, I will sleep easy knowing that we have soldiers of her caliber protecting our Nation. While her presence in our community will be greatly missed, her efforts on the staff of General Petraeus will surely add immeasurably to our Nation's mission in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in offering our best wishes to Colonel Nicholson as she assumes her new position as Secretary of the Combined Joint Staff for the Multinational Force Iraq, and wish her continued success in an already distinguished career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, on Question of Consideration on the Rule to provide for consideration of Conference Report on H.R. 2419—Food and Energy Security Act of 2007 (Flake Earmark Point of Order), I was at an award ceremony in which the United States Navy honored the Observation Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN (VO-67) with a Presidential Unit Citation. Mr. Kerry Bignall, a constituent of mine and member of the VO-67, was among the honorees at the event. Had I been present, I would have voted "no"

H.R. 2634—THE JUBILEE ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on legislation that was passed in the House on April 16, 2008, H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008.

Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 directs the Secretary of the Treasury, the Paris Club of Official Creditors, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), and other international financial institutions to provide debt cancellation for eligible low-income countries, and establishes a framework for creditor transparency and responsible lending. The need for debt cancellation and responsible lending for low-income countries is a serious issue for developing countries and I am pleased to support this legislation.

When the vote was called, I voted in favor of the bill; however, a technical glitch led to my vote not being recorded. I have contacted the Clerk of the House of Representatives about the vote and was informed that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will reflect my intent.

H.J. RES. 84, TO STOP GOVERNMENTS FROM SPONSORING ANTI-SEMITISM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be the lead Democratic sponsor of H.J. Res 84, to stop governments from sponsoring anti-Semitism. I would like to thank Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership on this important issue.

This month we have commemorated two very significant events. First, on May 2 we commemorated the 49th annual Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, which reminds us of what unabated hatred and intolerance toward a group of people can result in. I am also proud to say that on May 14 we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the creation

of Israel. Today, Israel, the Jewish Nation, is one of the greatest democracies in the world, a leader in the global economy, and one of our strongest allies.

Yet, despite these obvious advances and successes for the Jewish people, anti-Semitism continues to flourish throughout the world and manifests itself in a variety of dangerous ways. This is why I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.J. Res 84, to stop governments from sponsoring anti-Semitism.

I ask this in the wake of alarming findings issued from the State Department's "Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report." The report concludes that "over much of the past decade, U.S. embassies world-wide have noted an increase in anti-Semitic incidents, such as attacks on Jewish people, property, community institutions, and religious facilities." Perhaps even more alarmingly, some governments have helped foster these actions by spreading anti-Semitic sentiments through their policies or state-controlled media. We are all too familiar with Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threat that "Israel must be wiped off the map," and his numerous statements on Holocaust denial. We have seen the clips from Saudi state-controlled newspapers alleging that Jews were behind the September 11 attacks. In fact, the State Department's Anti-Semitism Report lists Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and Belarus as some of the countries with state-controlled media that distributes anti-Semitic materials. Not surprisingly, many of these countries have witnessed a rise in anti-Semitism, including anti-Semitic vandalism, caricatures, intimidation, and physical attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions.

Madam Speaker, we have come so far in the past 60 years. But the increase in anti-Semitism as reported by the State Department threatens this progress. We must stand up against governments that sponsor anti-Semitism, which is why I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.J. Res 84.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on May 14, 2008, due to a family obligation, I missed the following recorded vote:

Roll No. 309, on providing for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On May 15, 2008, due to obligations in the district, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 326, on H.R. 406—Alice Paul Women's Suffrage Congressional Gold Medal Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 327, on H.R. 5872—Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."